Centres (JCTCs) in Goa State through NCUI/Goa State Cooperative Union. During the current financial year, 2009-10, a provision of Rs.27.75 crore is available for implementing cooperative education and training programmes in the country including in the State of Goa. The main activities under the scheme is to oreanize need based training programmes and facilitate the process of human resource development to strengthen the cooperative movement in the state.

Promotion of organic farming

†1528. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to promote organic farming and to declare minimum support price for crops and oilseeds, so that small farmers could get fair price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether it would be considered in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government is already promoting organic farming in the country through "National Project on Organic Farming" (NPOF), "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) and "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand" (TMNE).

Under NPOF, financial assistance is provided for capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units, promotion of organic farming through training programmes, field demonstrations, setting up model organic farms and market development.

Under NHM and TMNE, promotion of organic farming has been included as a component and financial assistance is provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi-compost units and organic farming certification.

Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities, including crops and oilseeds.

(c) Does not arise.

Use of cow-urine in making insecticide

†1529. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of insecticides manufactured in India along with the percentage of insecticides which are imported;

(b) the percentage of imported materials that are used in the medicines manufactured in the country;

(c) whether any research is being undertaken to bring down this percentage;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether matters made of cow-urine are used as insecticide in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) During the year 2007-08, a quantity of 79,756 tonnes of technical grade pesticides was manufactured in India while 29,297 tonnes of technical grade pesticides was imported. Thus the quantity manufactured was 73% and that imported was 27%.

(b) to (e) Medicines as well as products made of cow-urine are not registered under the Insecticide Act, 1968 for use as insecticide.

Apprehension to food security due to poor monsoon

1530. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's food security plan is likely to get set back because of less than normal monsoon;

(b) whether Government has assessed the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool, as on 1st June 2009 were 204.03 lakh tons of rice and 331.22 lakh tons of wheat. With record procurement of rice and wheat, sufficient stocks are available in the central pool. At the present levels of allocations, estimated annual requirement of foodgrains is about 446 lakh tons under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and about 50 lakh tons under other welfare schemes. The present stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the demand of foodgrains under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes at present level of allocations during the current year 2009-10.

Cheaper Drugs

1531. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has declared new price formula for 184 drugs of which 77 to be cheaper;

(b) whether this move will lower prices of several drugs including antibiotic medicines used in the treatment of arthritis, diabetes, eye-ailments and infection etc.;

(c) if so, by when this price formula will be in operation; and

(d) whether Government can now monitor drug firms' produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First schedule, and the formulations